

STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Residential Landscaping

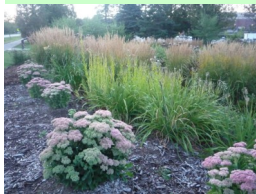
Rain Barrels

You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.



Vegetated Filter Strips

Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants that storm water picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.



Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales

Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the

ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.



Auto Care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. If you are dumping automotive fluids into storm drains, it has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a water body.

Try these tips:



Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard to the water infiltrates into the ground.

Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at recycling locations.

Septic Systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies.



Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank. As necessary (every 3 to 5 years).

Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

Lawn Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams.

Do not overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.

Compost or mulch yard waste. Do not leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.

Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.



Education is essential to changing people's behavior. Signs and markers near storm drains warn residents that pollutants entering the drains will be carried untreated into a local water body.

For additional information contact:

THE CITY OF OLMOS PARK

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This tip is based on information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and was adapted by:

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